

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 27, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants are grateful for the indication of allowability of claims 6-9, 11 and 13-16 and 18-27 subject to their re-writing in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim. Applicant has amended claims 6-9, 11 and 18 by adding all of the limitations of claim 4.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 4, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Kamoi et al. (USP 5,280,482). Claim 4 is an independent claim. Applicants have canceled Claims 4, 10 and 12 and amended Claims 6-9, 11 and 18 to include all of the limitations of Claim 4. Accordingly all claims are believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
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